



silver-haired bat

Lasionycteris noctivagans

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Chiroptera
Family: Vespertilionidae

Features

The silver-haired bat is four inches long, including a tail that's 1 1/2 inches. It has black hair with silver or white at the tip. There is some hair on the tail. The short ears each have a blunt tragus (membranous projection).

Natural History

The silver-haired bat lives in wooded areas close to water in the summer. It rests under tree bark or in holes in trees. It is crepuscular (active early evening and early morning). Spring migrants arrive in Iowa by early April and leave by early October. This bat hangs by itself instead of in colonies during hibernation. The females leave the wintering site before the males. The gestation period is 50 to 60 days. Two young are born per female in late June or early July. The young bats can fly by late July.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

summer: statewide; migration: statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.